IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (*Cancelled*).

2. (*Currently Amended*) A method of connecting fibers according to claim ~~1~~ 5, wherein each of said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle is directed at an angle toward the center axis of the single-core fiber.

3. (*Currently Amended*) A method of connecting fibers according to claim ~~1~~ 5, wherein each end of said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle~~, which end~~ that is connected to the single-core fiber, has a cross section at an angle.

4. (*Currently Amended*) A method of connecting fibers according to claim ~~1~~ 5, wherein said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle are three fibers for a red laser, a blue laser and a green laser, respectively.

5. (*Currently Amended*) A method of connecting fibers ~~according to claim 1~~, comprising:

combining a plurality of fibers into a fiber bundle such that light beams enter the fibers at different angles of incidence so that light beams exiting out of outer fibers of the bundle assume a low order mode and light beams exiting out of an inner fiber of the bundle assumes a higher order mode than the low order mode of the outer fibers; and

connecting each one end of said plurality of fibers to an end of a single-core fiber having a larger core diameter than the fibers, the fibers having different directions and characteristics at different positions connected with the single-core fiber

~~wherein said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle are entered by light beams at different angles of incidence in such a manner that the exit light beam of the outer fibers of the bundle assumes a low order mode and the exit light beam of the~~

~~inner fiber of the bundle assumes a higher order of mode than the outer fibers of the low-order mode~~ .

6. (*Currently Amended*) A method of connecting fibers ~~according to claim 1~~, comprising:

combining a plurality of fibers into a fiber bundle such that outer fibers of the bundle have a low numerical aperture and an inner fiber of the bundle has a higher numerical aperture than the low numerical aperture of the outer fibers; and

connecting each one end of said plurality of fibers to an end of a single-core fiber having a larger core diameter than the fibers, the fibers having different directions and characteristics at different positions connected with the single-core fiber

~~wherein said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle are such that the outer fibers of the bundle have a low numerical aperture and the inner fiber of the bundle has a higher numerical aperture than the outer fibers having a low numerical aperture~~ .

7. (*Cancelled*).

8. (*Currently Amended*) A laser apparatus according to claim ~~7~~ 11, wherein each of said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle is directed at an angle toward the center axis of the single-core fiber.

9. (*Currently Amended*) A laser apparatus according to claim ~~7~~ 11, wherein each of the ends of said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle~~, which end~~ that are connected to the single-core fiber, has a cross section at an angle.

10. (*Currently Amended*) A laser apparatus according to claim ~~7~~ 11, wherein said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle are three fibers irradiated with a red laser, a blue laser and a green laser, respectively, by the laser generators.

11. (*Currently Amended*) A laser apparatus ~~according to claim 7~~, comprising:

a plurality of laser generators; and

a group of fibers including a plurality of fibers connected to each of the laser generators and a single-core fiber connected to a fiber bundle that includes said plurality of fibers, the single-core fiber having a larger core diameter than the fibers,

~~wherein said plurality of fibers have different directions and characteristics in accordance with the position connected~~

wherein said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle are configured such that light beams enter the fibers at different angles of incidence so that light beams exiting out of outer fibers of the bundle assume a low order mode and light beams exiting out of an inner fiber of the bundle assumes a higher order mode than the low order mode of the outer fibers ~~entered by light beams at different angles of incidence so that the exit light beams from the outer fiber of the bundle have a low order mode and the exit light beam from the inner fiber of the bundle has a higher order of mode than the outer fiber having a low order mode~~.

12. (*Currently Amended*) A laser apparatus ~~according to claim 7~~, comprising:

a plurality of laser generators; and

a group of fibers including a plurality of fibers connected to each of the laser generators and a single-core fiber connected to a fiber bundle that includes said plurality of fibers, the single-core fiber having a larger core diameter than the fibers,

wherein said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle are configured such that ~~the~~ outer fibers of the bundle have a low numerical aperture and ~~the~~ an inner fiber of the bundle has a higher numerical aperture than the low numerical aperture of the outer fibers ~~having a low numerical aperture~~.

13 (*Cancelled*).

14. (*Currently Amended*) A projection television according to claim ~~13~~ 17, wherein each of said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle is directed at an angle toward the center axis of the single-core fiber.

15. (*Currently Amended*) A projection television according to claim ~~13~~ 17, wherein each end of said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle~~, which end~~ that is connected to the single-core fiber, has a cross section at an angle.

16. (*Currently Amended*) A projection television according to claim ~~13~~ 17, wherein said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle are three fibers for a red laser, a blue laser and a green laser, respectively.

17. (*Currently Amended*) A projection television ~~according to claim 13~~, comprising:

a light source including a plurality of laser generators, a plurality of fibers connected to each of the laser generators, and a single-core fiber connected to a fiber bundle formed of said plurality of fibers, said single-core fiber having a larger core diameter than the fibers; and

a display configured to display an image based on the video information supplied thereto, using light radiated from the light source,

wherein said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle are configured such that light beams enter the fibers at different angles of incidence so that light beams exiting out of outer fibers of the bundle assume a low order mode and light beams exiting out of an inner fiber of the bundle assumes a higher order mode than the low order mode of the outer fibers ~~entered by light beams at different angles of incidence in such a manner that the exit light beam of the outer fibers of the bundle assumes a low-order mode and the exit light beam of the inner fiber of the bundle assumes a higher order of mode than the outer fibers of the low-order mode~~.

18. (*Currently Amended*) A projection television ~~according to claim 13~~, comprising:

a light source including a plurality of laser generators, a plurality of fibers connected to each of the laser generators, and a single-core fiber connected to a fiber bundle formed of said plurality of fibers, said single-core fiber having a larger core diameter than the fibers; and

a display configured to display an image based on the video information supplied thereto, using light radiated from the light source,

wherein said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle are configured such that ~~the~~ outer fibers of the bundle have a low numerical aperture and ~~the~~ an inner fiber of the bundle has a higher numerical aperture than the low numerical aperture of the outer fibers ~~having a low numerical aperture~~.

19. (*New*) A method of connecting fibers according to claim 6, wherein each of said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle is directed at an angle toward the center axis of the single-core fiber.

20. (*New*) A method of connecting fibers according to claim 6, wherein each end of said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle that is connected to the single-core fiber, has a cross section at an angle.

21. (*New*) A method of connecting fibers according to claim 6, wherein said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle are three fibers for a red laser, a blue laser and a green laser, respectively.

22. (*New*) A laser apparatus according to claim 12, wherein each of said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle is directed at an angle toward the center axis of the single-core fiber.

23. (*New*) A laser apparatus according to claim 12, wherein each of the ends of said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle that are connected to the single-core fiber, has a cross section at an angle.

24. (*New*) A laser apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle are three fibers irradiated with a red laser, a blue laser and a green laser, respectively, by the laser generators.

25. (*New*) A projection television according to claim 18, wherein each of said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle is directed at an angle toward the center axis of the single-core fiber.

26. (*New*) A projection television according to claim 18, wherein each end of said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle that is connected to the single-core fiber, has a cross section at an angle.

27. (*New*) A projection television according to claim 18, wherein said plurality of fibers forming the fiber bundle are three fibers for a red laser, a blue laser and a green laser, respectively.